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FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Text submitted by the Chairperson on the follow-up to agreed conclusions 1996/1 of the Economic and Social Council

The Commission on the Status of Women welcomes agreed conclusions 1996/1 of the Economic and Social Council on the coordination of United Nations system activities for poverty eradication. The agreed conclusions provide a framework for ensuring coordination of the multi-year work programmes of functional commissions and a better division of labour among them with a view to promoting a coordinated and integrated follow-up to major United Nations conferences. The Commission the Status of Women wishes to inform the Council of the following measures that it will adopt in order to implement agreed conclusions 1996/1:

(a) The Commission on the Status of Women considered the theme of poverty eradication at its fortieth session, in 1996. In accordance with its multi-year work programme, issues relating to poverty eradication will also be considered in 1998 within the framework of the review of the synthesized report of national action plans and of the mid-term review of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001. In this way, the Commission can provide an input to the overall review of the theme of poverty eradication to be undertaken by the Council;

(b) The Commission on the Status of Women adopted, at its forty-first session, agreed conclusions on the theme "Women and the environment". Those agreed conclusions shall be transmitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development as a contribution to the review on the implementation of Agenda 21;

(c) The Commission on the Status of Women has a special responsibility to promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the process of review of the implementation of the results of major United Nations conferences in the economic, social and related fields, including in the areas of poverty

eradication. The Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women will contact the chairpersons of other functional commissions of the Council with responsibility for the follow-up of United Nations conferences with a view to considering ways and means to cooperate in reviewing the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in areas falling under the mandate of other functional commissions, and to coordinate mutual inputs to discussions by the various functional commissions of priority topics, as appropriate. The Secretariat will bring to the attention of other functional commissions relevant decisions of the Commission on the Status of Women;

(d) The Commission on the Status of Women shall undertake in 1998 an overall review of the theme "Human rights of women". In accordance with paragraph 45 of agreed conclusions 1996/1, the Commission on Human Rights should consider providing an input to the Commission on the Status of women on ensuring women's real enjoyment of their human rights, in particular those relating to economic resources. With a view to facilitating interaction between the two Commissions, the Secretariat is invited to submit a report on this subject to both the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights, in cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights and the Division on the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat. The Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women will contact the Chairperson of the Commission of Human Rights with a view to examining the best way to ensure cooperation in the review of the subject of the human rights of women;

(e) The Commission on the Status of Women adopted agreed conclusions on the theme "Education and training of women" at its forty-first session. It will review the theme "Women and health" in 1999. The agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women on those two subjects can be transmitted, as appropriate, to the Commission for Social Development, which will consider issues related to social services at its session of 1999, as well as to the 1999 session of the Commission on Population and Development, which will consider the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women will contact the President of the Council and the chairpersons of the commissions mentioned in paragraph 57 of agreed conclusions 1996/1 with a view to examining ways of ensuring a proper division of labour when reviewing the theme of basic social services for all;

(f) The Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with paragraph 58 of agreed conclusions 1990/1, would welcome an input from the Statistical Commission on the statistical implications of the Beijing Platform for Action. The Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women will contact the Chairperson of the Statistical Commission with a view to examining how such input could be provided in a manner that enhances the opportunity for the Commission on the Status of Women to consider this subject.